

Dublin, April 21. 1865

My dear Friend - It is now pretty two
years since I wrote to you or have heard
from you directly. I knew you had plenty
to think of without the trouble of reading my
letters or writing to me - and I found that such
letters without ever doubting your kind feeling
towards me, has felt and acted much in the
same way from the same motives. Besides
the unexpressed cordiality of many of our letters -
papers since the war began, I have seen so
many of great ability & the highest respectability
pursue a contrary course & adhere to it con-
stantly that I have felt the absurdity of trying
to do with my pen what others have been doing
so much more effectually - and accordingly I
have sunk into the position of a mere private,
and have felt that in the presence of the great
events going on around me, it would be like an
act of impertinence to intrude on you
with my trashy opinions & smaller affairs &
concerns. Nevertheless my interest in the
Anti Slavery cause or in the cause of America
has never abated - & I am generally regarded as
a fanatic on these points by those who know

far less of their importance than I do.

After all it remains a fact that the bulk of the English working classes and the great majority of the most eminent Englishmen - men I mean of real and devoted sentiments - have been all along on that side - and I think much of the unkindly feeling has since been provoked, with the exception of the aristocratic & clerical parties who have felt that the success of a great Republic was dangerous to the permanence of their position. When the most eminent man in the nation was always a staunch friend of the North. I saw Bright, Fanny Den, Mill, Herbert, Professor Newman, Hughes, many more than I could name. Cairnes came into my office yesterday in a most unusual fever of excitement & enthusiasm at the fall of Richmond & the impulsion of Lee, Davis &c. I believe if England, Scotland & Ireland were polled as large or nearly as large a majority would be found in favor of the North as could be had in the North itself. When considering us on this side but the conduct of our governing classes we should remember how numerous has been the multitude of runaway Democrats since the war began. - At any rate I rejoice by the sake of the United States, of the slave & the

enveloped would that the right side had been.

Last October I sold my country place & am now living within two miles of my town house in the suburbs. It is a comfortable residence & my daughter find it more suitable than the country where they had no city neighbours. I am several years older than when I saw you last. Time seems to ~~pass~~ ^{pass} with accelerated rapidity - and I don't think I could be at all able to call the exertions I made when I was your guest in the Palazzo Albani in 1857.

I have not heard whether Mr. Samuel Thompson have returned - but so would be very glad of a few lines to let me know how you all are & how they are - & whether they had great enjoyment in their visit. I hope your sister Anne's eye was as worse than they were when I last heard. Are Emma & Anne Chapman still in America? & what has become of Edmund Quincy? He also has dropped my acquaintance - so which I cannot & don't blame him - for I think I am stupider than I used to be. I could not explain to you how anxious I have felt through the past 4 years - the news was so varying & the world apparently so doubtful. I cannot say that I feared the

North would eventually win - but I did
often apprehend that the Southern people,
with much love for the colored race, might
submit to some dangerous compromise for
the sake of peace, which might practically
end us leaving them in the same social
position they occupied before - & so leave the
whole terrible struggle to be gone over again
at some future ~~stage~~ & perhaps not very
distant time. Even as matters stand
the work of reconstruction will be a very
difficult one - and much will depend on
the slaveholding class being effectually de-
prived of every opportunity of doing mischief
in future. I have great sympathy with Wendell
Phillips in his view about Louisiana - but
I think him far from prudent in being so
ready to quarrel with the England in view
of the conduct of the whites & negroes in this country.
After such a struggle this country will require
a better time and has become too so prompt
she will be far better employed than in trying to
overcome the efforts which have been made
chiefly in furtherance of the selfishness of class
interests. With kind regards to all your circle
I am yours ever truly

Rich D Webb